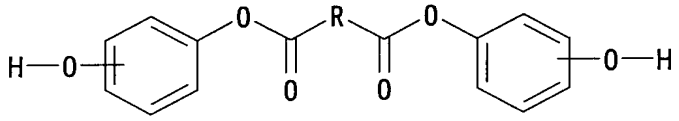
CLAIMS

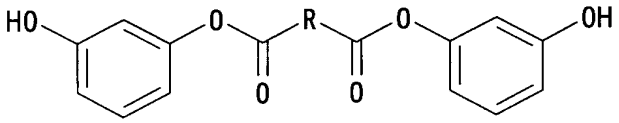
1. A rubber composition comprising 1-10 parts by mass of sulfur and 0.1-10 parts by mass of a compound represented by the following general formula (1) based on 100 parts by mass of a rubber component:



. . . (1)

(wherein R represents a divalent aliphatic group having a carbon number of 1-16 or a divalent aromatic group).

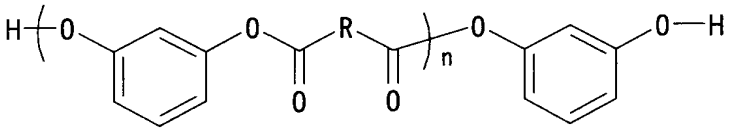
2. A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (1) is a compound represented by the following general formula (2):



. . . (2)

(wherein R represents a divalent aliphatic group having a carbon number of 1-16 or a divalent aromatic group).

3. A rubber composition comprising 1-10 parts by mass of sulfur and 0.1-10 parts by mass of a composition containing 60-100 wt% of the compound represented by the general formula (2), 0-20 wt% of a compound represented by the following general formula (3) in which n is 2, 0-10 wt% of a compound represented by the following general formula (3) in which n is 3 and 0-10 wt% of a compound represented by the following general formula (3) in which n is 4-6 based on 100 parts by mass of a rubber component:



. . . (3)

(wherein R is a divalent aliphatic group having a carbon number of 1-16 or a divalent aromatic group, and n is an integer of 2-6).

4. A rubber composition according to any one of claims 1-3,

wherein R in the general formula (2) is an alkylene group having a carbon number of 2-10 or phenylene group.

5. A rubber composition according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein R in the general formulae (2) and (3) is an alkylene group having a carbon number of 2-10 or phenylene group.

6. A rubber composition according to any one of claims 1-3, which further contains 0.03-1 part by mass as a cobalt amount of an organic acid cobalt salt based on 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

7. A rubber composition according to any one of claims 1-3 and 6, wherein the rubber component is at least one of natural rubber and polyisoprene rubber.

8. A rubber composition according to any one of claims 1-3 and 6-7, wherein the rubber component comprises not lower than 50 mass% of natural rubber and the remainder being a synthetic rubber.

9. An adhesion improver comprising the compound represented by the formula (2).

10. An adhesion improver comprising a composition containing 60-100 wt% of the compound represented by the general formula (2), 0-20 wt% of a compound represented by the general formula (3) in which n is 2, 0-10 wt% of a compound represented by the general formula (3) in which n is 3 and 0-10 wt% of a compound represented by the following formula (3) in which n is 4-6.

11. A pneumatic tire comprising a carcass comprised of at least one carcass ply and a belt disposed on the carcass outward in a radial direction of the tire and comprised of at least one belt layer, wherein at least one of the carcass and the belt includes a layer composed of steel cords covered with a coating rubber, characterized in that a rubber composition as claimed in any one of claims 1-8 is used as the coating rubber covering the steel cords in at least one of the carcass and the belt.